

District signs PCA with city of Belen

by Joan Mier

The Albuquerque District signed two Project Cost Agreements (PCA) at a total cost of \$1.9 million with the city of Belen July 3 to design and construct two utility line replacement projects in the city, according to Bill Spurgeon, project manager. The agreement was signed by District Engineer Lt. Col. Raymond Midkiff and Belen Mayor Ronnie Torres in an official ceremony at the Belen City Office.

The federal government will pay 75 percent of the cost to replace water and sewer lines along Perizitte West Chavez Streets and Jude Court

in Belen. The city of Belen will fund the remaining 25 percent, Spurgeon said.

The projects are part of a \$3 million funding package the Corps received earmarked for environmental infrastructure improvements in Bernalillo, Valencia and Sandoval Counties in New Mexico authorized under Section 593 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999. The Act authorizes design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in Central New

Mexico. The projects must be publicly owned and can include wastewater treatment and related facilities, storm-water remediation and retention, environmental restoration, and surface water resource protection and development.

Also on hand at the ceremony were representatives from the offices of U.S. Sens. Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici, both supporters of the projects.

"The Section 593 program is a valuable tool that will provide much needed assistance to improve water and wastewater systems in our local communities," Midkiff said. o

Observe water safety tips

by Angela Bradley

Park Ranger, Abiquiu Dam

Every year approximately 6,000 people drown in the United States. Drowning is the second leading cause of accidental death for persons 15 to 44 years of age. Two-thirds of these people had no intention of being in the water. The major causes of drowning are not wearing a life jacket, abuse of alcohol, lack of sufficient swimming skills and hypothermia. Unfortunately of the 6,000 drowning deaths that occur in a year, about 200 of them are children. Several thousand others children are treated in hospitals for submersion accidents that lead to permanent brain damage and respiratory health problems. Remember, children have a natural curiosity and attraction to water so keep them supervised. A few simple rules can save lives when having a family outing on the water. Most often the safety tips we hear over and over again are the ones that save our lives.

- Learn to swim



- Never swim alone
- Supervise children
- Look before you leap
- Alcohol and boating don't mix
- Wear your life jacket
- Discuss water safety with family
- Know the water conditions
- Know the route to medical care
- Use sunscreen

And for boaters -

- Know your boat and know the navigational rules of the water (you can take classes through the state to learn boating rules)
- Don't overload your boat
- Boating and alcohol don't mix
- Check the weather forecast and conditions, realizing conditions can change very quickly
- Have all required safety equipment on board
- Test your boat for its working condition
- Carry tools to work on your boat
- Watch for hazards o